

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26-36 were pending in the present application. Claim 36 has essentially been rewritten in independent form. Claims 32-35 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-7, 9-17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26-31, and 36 are now pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants sincerely thank Examiner Huynh for indicating that claims 1-7, 9-17, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26-31 are allowed, and that claim 36 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 36 has essentially been rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,390,041 to Nakamura et al. Claims 32-35 have been canceled, thus mooted the rejections.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Examiner Huynh is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date APR 09 2004

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